

The Guano Company.

We are glad to learn that a sufficient amount of stock has been subscribed to warrant the organization of the Guano Company. A meeting will be held at an early day, in this city, of which due notice will be given, for the purpose of organizing, when the work of construction will be begun at once.

We understand that while sufficient stock has been subscribed to begin operations, it is feared that the Company, with its present subscribed capital, will not be able to manufacture guano in sufficient quantities to meet the demand, and it is hoped that other subscriptions will yet be made. As the organization is now a fixed fact, we hope our citizens will look into the matter. Among the stockholders are some of the most careful and practical planters and business men of North and South Carolina, and the management of the Company will be almost exclusively under the control of our own citizens. While its successful establishment will profit our entire section, it must not be forgotten that the immediate advantages to Wilmington will be immense. The more capital that is profitably employed, the greater will be the immediate benefit to us. The firm establishment and successful operation of this Company will be felt by every citizen of the place—none so wealthy as not to be profitably affected, and none so poor as not to reap some advantage by the impetus which it will give to every branch of business and employment.

We know that our people are now laboring under pecuniary and political disabilities which paralyze their energies and intimidate their efforts. The cheerless aspect of the present, and the gloom of the future, give poor encouragement for investments and furnish little hope for early recuperation; but by unity of action and honest labor, we will rise above the darkness which now enshrouds us, and the efforts to relieve our financial embarrassments may prove the means of our political redemption—certainly we have nothing to hope from lying supinely upon our backs and waiting for our political, to precede our financial, regeneration. The former is the convenient shackle of party necessities and aims; the latter is "in ourselves."

On all sides we see our brethren of the South casting aside the lethargy under which they are suffering, and making a manly effort to rebuild their waste places and restore their former prosperity and wealth. We must not be laggards in the race. We have now offered by capitalists and experienced business men of Baltimore, assistance which we cannot afford to refuse. They come to us and proffer to go hand in hand, sharing equally the cost, and giving to us the management of an enterprise which must prove of great benefit to our country, and which experience has shown to be of great profit to the shareholders. The Company proposes to try no experiment, but to engage in a recognized and standard business—to manufacture an article of universal demand, under the control of leading and successful men. Let us, then, at least look into the matter for ourselves, reserving our judgment until an examination has shown its merits or demerits. We hope those who may feel an interest in the matter will attend the meeting of stockholders soon to be held, when every opportunity will be afforded to look into the matter.

General Sickles' Letter.

We publish to-day in full the letter of General Sickles to Senator Trumbull, giving some practical recommendations upon the reconstruction of the South. This letter, which was before the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, contains recommendations, based upon experience and observation, strangely at variance with the increased severity and onerous restrictions of the bill reported by that committee to the Senate a few days since. It shows in what insignificant estimation are held opinions of the most distinguished men and successful officers, when they are in conflict with what is supposed to be the interest of party. General Sickles' recommendations are hooted at because founded in justice and truth, while those of traveling emissaries, like Conway and Heyward, or local "loyalists," like Sinclair and Holden, form the basis of action, because they look to party success.

General Sickles' letter is the best vindication of the necessity of the President giving an authorized interpretation to the military reconstruction measures, as he shows the impossibility of a uniform execution of them. His recommendations will be recognized as just and practical by all honest and fair-minded men, who have had any experience at the South. Congress may not relish the fact, but few of the enfranchised citizens of this section are qualified to fill the more important and necessary departments of the State government, but it is one which will strike the most casual observer, who has recently been at the South. We do not like to hear unpleasant truths, however, even from our friends.

We can well appreciate the character of the informants upon whose authority Congress, at each returning session, increases the political disabilities and makes more stringent the terms of our reconstruction. That which they receive from sources entitled to respectful consideration, are unheeded—every vile slander is treasured up and lives upon the journals, or in the pages of the Congressional Globe, all honorable testimony is buried in that populous parliamentary sepulchre, the committee room. The evidence and experience of their most honored officials are discarded, and legislation is in harmony with the recommendations of paid and unreliable tools, with no characters to forfeit, and whose pay and continued employment depends upon their ability to manufacture Southern horrors and get up Southern riots.

University of the South.

The Rt. Rev. W. M. GREEN, D. D., Bishop of Mississippi and Chancellor of the University of the South, has called a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University, at University Place, Sawanee, on Thursday, the first day of August.

We are glad to see a returning interest felt in the establishment of this Institution. This is one of the many grand and noble undertakings in the South, which have been checked, we hope not destroyed, by the war. We believe, that previous to the outbreak of hostilities, the University of the South had every prospect of an early and successful completion. Now, more than ever, the youths of our section require the fostering care and assistance of wealthy and liberal institutions. Many of them already in existence are bravely struggling for life, and those in contemplation have received a check, which years of labor will only relieve, unless foreign aid is successfully invoked.

We trust, however, a full meeting of the Board will respond to the call of Bishop Green, and possibly some means will be proposed by which the fallen prospects of this University may be revived.

Through Travel.

We are glad to know that the efforts of our Railroad officials to secure a fair share of the through travel, North and South, is meeting with success. The new schedule has been in operation but a few days, and already the increase of travel is very large. The passenger trains go well filled, especially the Night Express, are well filled, while the Southern travel is good for the season.

The Wilmington and Manchester Railroad have added another train, and we now have a double daily, fast train, from all points South and North, with very few changes of cars. The management of the roads are so excellent, and the condition of the track and the running stock are such that great regularity and uniform connections are insured, and it now forms the quickest route from Mobile to New York. For comfort, safety and speed, the line through our city is unequalled, and these facts are having their due weight with travelers.

The delay and other inconveniences experienced by the ferry across the Cape Fear, at this point, has always been a drawback to travel and freight. We are happy to state that this difficulty will soon be obviated. The Bridge Company is rapidly progressing with its gigantic work, and before many months are gone the expansive waters of the Cape Fear will no longer prove an obstacle to the free and rapid transmission of passengers and freight. This will add much to the comfort and dispatch of passengers, and will be of incalculable advantage to the roads. It is a matter of congratulation that the roads are under the charge of capable and industrious officials, and we are satisfied that nothing will be spared which attention and intelligence can do to make their stock remunerative to the owners, and give character and credit to the great works over which they have charge.

We are fully acquainted with the terrible struggle through which our railroads, in common with most of similar works in the South, have passed—some of which have succumbed, and but few are now in good repair; and we know of no better endorsement of the zeal and ability of the officials who have had charge of those which terminate here, than the success with which they are weathering the storm, and the fine condition in which they now are. If there is immediate recuperation and prosperity for our section, these roads are prepared to aid in the work and reap the benefit of any increase of business; while the success which they make the best of the present stagnation and gloom, is wonderful and praiseworthy.

The Crops.

The Associate made a flying trip, a few days since, to Sumter, S. C., and took pains to make observations and procure information relative to the growing crops. Along the line of Railroad the crops look much better than was anticipated. It is true that in many spots in the fields the corn looked sickly from the excessive wet weather, but this was the exception, as generally it looked well, sometimes very well. The cotton crop of Sumter District is said to be generally good. The corn is not so promising, yet is much better than at this time a year ago.

Along the line of the Railroad the cotton is small, but generally the weed looks well, and the prospect now is, that a fair cotton crop will be made in Sumter, Marion and Darlington Districts, though it has been cut off to some extent. The corn and pea crops will be considerably less than was expected previous to the rain storms.

A friend writes to us that the crops in Duplin county, in this State, are worse than they have been for many years. Nothing will be made on most of the low lands. Perhaps a half crop of corn and cotton will be the yield of the uplands. Many of the farmers of that county are said to be very much depressed, and now think that only a bare support will be made.

If the seasons had been favorable, Duplin would have been classed among the cotton-growing counties of the State, as most every farmer had planted cotton to some extent, but the injury by the rains has been so great that but a limited quantity will be made.

A practical farmer and intelligent gentleman from Edgecombe informs us that the corn crop of that county will be cut off from a fourth to a third, depending upon the remainder of the season and the lateness of the frost. He thinks that the cotton crop has been damaged not more than a fourth. From the number of acres planted and the hands employed, it was estimated that the yield would be rather over twenty thousand bales, but it is thought it has been damaged to the extent of five or six thousand bales, more, however, by the general effect of the wet weather, the loss of time and the grass, than by the overflow. A few planters have been quite seriously injured by the overflow, but this is not general.

If the above estimate is correct, the cotton

crop of the county will be about the same as last year, but cultivated at considerably greater expense. In other words, with an ordinary season, there will be three-fourths of an average crop made; with a good season this estimate will be too little. From almost all quarters we have more hopeful accounts than immediately after the rains, and we sincerely trust that our farmers will have favorable weather and God will bless their labors with an abundant harvest. We know that in certain localities the damage has been great, but even in these places we trust the injuries are not irreparable. Industry and a late fall, will do much to restore the injuries and crown our labors with good reward.

Annual Exercises and Distribution of Premiums at the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Sumter, South Carolina.

The annual distribution of premiums at the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Sumter, South Carolina, took place on the 10th inst., in the new and spacious Hall recently erected by the order of the Sisters. This Hall is called St. Joseph's, and is large and well planned. In its construction the Architect displayed much taste, and deserves credit for the knowledge of workmanship evinced, and in devising and successfully carrying out so excellent a plan. The dormitories on the second and third floors are large and airy and comfortably arranged. This large building was commenced early last Fall and is now nearly completed.

The number of visitors in attendance to witness the various exercises of the pupils was large. We counted fifty-seven young ladies, pupils of the Academy, all decked in white with blue sashes. The sight thus presented by these innocent young creatures, was one most beautiful and pleasant to behold. The declamations were all excellent, and there was not a single awkward pause made by any, from the eldest to the youngest. Some of these declamations were very superior, but all acquitted themselves creditably. The South should be especially proud of such an institution, and the "Sisters of Mercy" are deserving of the best wishes of our people, and should be awarded praise for their untiring exertions in building up this Academy amid the ruin and devastation with which the sad results of the war have surrounded us.

We were pleased to see the venerable and worthy Pastor of St. Thomas Church in this city, the Rev. Dr. Corcoran, present, upon whom devolved the duty of addressing the pupils and awarding the premiums. His address was characterized for ability and neatness, and is one which will long be remembered, not only by the pupils, but by all in attendance.

We regret that this school has not been more liberally patronized during the past year, but this fact, we are aware, is owing more to the financial condition of the country and pecuniary embarrassments of parents and guardians than to any want of appreciation of the institution. In future, as our financial condition prospers, we have no doubt but that a more liberal patronage will flow in upon the institution, especially now that such ample accommodations have been made for the comfort of the pupils.

Blackberry Wine.

We call attention to the very fine paper read before the Chapel Hill Agricultural Society by Mr. R. B. SAUNDERS, which we publish to-day from the original manuscript. Mr. SAUNDERS is a practical Chemist of much merit, and his suggestions have the additional advantage of intelligent and careful experience. We know of nothing we could publish more interesting to a large number of our readers engaged or interested in the subject of wine-making. It is a matter of increasing importance, and we look for the day when wine-making will be recognized as one of the most lucrative and pleasant occupations of our people. The success of this business will not only add wealth and population to our State, but its effects upon temperance will be more efficient than all the legislation possible.

For the Journal.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT TIMMONSVILLE, S. C.

TIMMONSVILLE, S. C., July 10, 1867. Editors Wilmington Journal:—A destructive fire occurred here this morning at three o'clock, which destroyed a large portion of the business part of our little village. The fire originated in, or rather under, the store occupied by Mr. J. T. Bristow, and from circumstances attending it, there is no doubt but that it was the work of an incendiary. Five stores were soon laid waste by the devouring element, and it was only by the almost incredible exertions of the citizens that the fire was finally subdued. The losses are as follows: J. T. Bristow, entire stock of goods valued at \$2,500, insured for \$1,500. The building belonged to the estate of D. J. W. Sanborn—no insurance. D. A. McEachern saved nearly all his stock; the building was owned by Jessie Keith, and valued at \$800—insured for \$500. Garner & Bro. lost their entire stock, valued at \$1,000. The building was insured for \$1,000, the stock \$200. J. F. Cole & Co., lost building and stock—no insurance. Their loss is about \$1,500. The total loss cannot be much short of \$10,000.

Yours, &c.

The Paris newspapers are filled with incidents connected with the sensation occasioned by the representation of Victor Hugo's *Hernani*. One line, which was supposed at the first representation of the play, had been restored. An attendant walks in and addressing Don Carlos says: "The Emperor Maximilian is dead," referring to some old fellow whose very bones had crumbled into dust ages ago. But the words ran through the audience like an electric shock. This was on Thursday, June 20, and perhaps many of those present at that representation will hereafter connect the shudder, caused by the recitation of the line, with the fact that the body of the unfortunate Austrian Prince was then lying, scarcely cold, on the soil of Mexico.

A New York slander case has been in litigation for over thirty years. It looks likely to rival "Jarndyce and Jarndyce" before it is settled.

The directors of a New Jersey railroad offer to parties who will build on the line of their road a free pass over it for three to five years.

Reported for the Journal.

R. B. SAUNDERS.

ON THE "BEST MODE OF MANUFACTURING BLACKBERRY WINE."

Made to the Chapel Hill Agricultural Society, by R. B. SAUNDERS.

Published by Request of the Society.

Good wine has always been an evidence of refined and cultivated taste. There is nothing so gratifying and invigorating to the whole system, when suitably taken, as good wine—its freshness and peculiar aroma renders it very grateful to the stomach.

Good wine is the product of good fruit, and that fruit must be matured under circumstances favorable to the development of its best qualities; for this reason the best qualities of wine cannot be made from wild Blackberries. Cultivation and sunshine are necessary for the development of the grapes, and the wine and destroys the excess of acid. I am doubtful, if under the most favorable circumstances, an excellent wine can be made of Blackberries. I find by repeated tests that the berries contain Citric, Mallic, and Tannic Acids, besides some others, but no Tartaric Acid, which is characteristic of the Grape. Citric and Mallic Acids are soluble in both Alcohol and water, and therefore remain in the wine, communicating the acid taste and properties of the wine I think are due to the Tannic Acid it contains, which being an astringent may have some effect on the diseases of the bowels. Now in wine made of grapes, there is no Citric or Mallic acid present and only a small amount of Tannic acid, derived from the oak staves, of which the barrels are made. The Tartaric acid that exists in the grape juice is soluble in water, but not soluble in alcohol, and as the sugar in the juice is converted into alcohol, the Tartaric Acid falls out of solution carrying with it the excess of the Alkalies contained in the juice, making Cream of Tartar or Bitartrate of Potassa, and I believe as long as such an amount of Acids exist in Blackberry wine, it is a question whether it will be a healthy drink. One of the best tests of the value of a quantity of wine is to effect it produces when used in excess. Pure and healthy wine when drunk to excess leaves no headache or nervous debility; whereas, the effects of Blackberry wine are violent headache, nausea and nervousness, showing the effects of the Acid held in solution in the wine.

I believe the wine drunk in moderation to be better than common whiskey and that the manufacture of it will lead to making wine from grapes, than which there is no more healthful drink. I have examined several samples of the so-called Blackberry wine, and find them to come up to what is required of a good wine. Good wine, when poured out, should sparkle, be transparent, have a pleasant taste and smell, must not be sour, should contain about 10 to 20 per cent. alcohol, and its specific gravity should not be greater than 1.000. I have never seen them. I do not wish to be understood as discouraging the manufacture of Blackberry wine, for I think it a good thing for him to practice on, but I believe that with the exception of the wine made in a few years when we all have vineyards, no time need be lost in then having to learn. I have no idea that wine can be made from Blackberries when it can be made as cheap from grapes, for grape wine is as superior to Blackberry wine as a fine champagne is to blackberry; but until grapes are plentiful, everybody should use blackberries, as it will be superior to the mixtures made and sold by our Yankee brethren.

Until blackberries are cultivated and more pains taken to raise only the choicest ripe fruit, the amount of acid in the wine will have to be reduced by the addition of water and sugar will have to be added in order to furnish alcohol enough to make the wine ferment, for the sugar is not added to make it sweet, as you add sugar to tea or coffee, but to be converted into alcohol. The water is added to dilute the acid and make it pleasant to the taste, as you would add water to whiskey when too strong to drink. No definite formula can be given as to the exact amount of sugar and water to be added, as it is affected by many circumstances, such as a change in the weather, the rain a few hours before the berries are gathered, or if the berries are grown in a damp soil or in the shade. A good wine from blackberries (unless accidentally) cannot be made without an assay of the acid. It is added in very small place should of an aërometer. Oros is the simplest and consists of a glass tube graduated; 10 or 12 inches in length and 1 inch wide, and closed at the bottom end. The tube is filled to the line with water, and then the line O with juice and a solution of ammonia (see p. 294) added, the tube is shaken, the tube well shaken, keeping the mouth closed with the thumb. After more or less of the solution of ammonia has been added it will change to a violet color; this color indicates the saturation of the acid and the height of the fluid in the tube shows the quantity of acid in the juice. The lines marked 1, 2, 3, &c., indicate whole per cent, and the shorter ones 1 per cent. Care should be taken not to add too much ammonia. If the juice contains more than 6 to 10 per cent. of acid (or practically 1 lb. in 21 gallons) water must be added until it is reduced to this amount, as it has been found by practical experience that this amount makes the best wine from grapes, and as no experiments are recorded of the blackberry, we will have to depend upon the experience made with other fruits. The amount of water to be added to any number of gallons can be ascertained by the rule of 3, for if 1 lb. acid requires 21 gallons water, it is easy to ascertain how much 1 lb. acid requires, or the water can be poured in until the scales show the proper weight is added, care being taken to add it in very small quantities.

The amount of sugar is to be determined by a Must scale or a Beaume's Hydrometer, for liquids are heavier than water. This is added in very small place should of an aërometer. Oros is the simplest and consists of a glass tube graduated; 10 or 12 inches in length and 1 inch wide, and closed at the bottom end. The tube is filled to the line with water, and then the line O with juice and a solution of ammonia (see p. 294) added, the tube is shaken, the tube well shaken, keeping the mouth closed with the thumb. After more or less of the solution of ammonia has been added it will change to a violet color; this color indicates the saturation of the acid and the height of the fluid in the tube shows the quantity of acid in the juice. The lines marked 1, 2, 3, &c., indicate whole per cent, and the shorter ones 1 per cent. Care should be taken not to add too much ammonia. If the juice contains more than 6 to 10 per cent. of acid (or practically 1 lb. in 21 gallons) water must be added until it is reduced to this amount, as it has been found by practical experience that this amount makes the best wine from grapes, and as no experiments are recorded of the blackberry, we will have to depend upon the experience made with other fruits. The amount of water to be added to any number of gallons can be ascertained by the rule of 3, for if 1 lb. acid requires 21 gallons water, it is easy to ascertain how much 1 lb. acid requires, or the water can be poured in until the scales show the proper weight is added, care being taken to add it in very small quantities.

The greatest possible cleanliness is absolutely necessary, as very little will change the fermentation from a vinous to an acetic one. The temperature of the room in which the fermentation takes place should be about 65 degrees Fahrenheit, for if less the fermentation proceeds imperfectly. If higher, alcohol escapes and weakens the wine. By a clean barrel is meant one that is free from all small and communicable tastes to water after standing in it some time. It should be rinsed in lime water and then in clear water before being used.

The average of the assays taken is in 1,000 lbs. juice:

Sugar 8 pounds.
Water 32 ounces.
Alcohol 11 ounces.

It is to be remembered that this makes a weak wine, and no cordial, it will not be so good as the ordinary blackberry wine. The only difficulty after the proper quantity of sugar and water is added, is the fermentation, with the use of the safety tube there is none, as by keeping the air from the juice, Acetic acid will not be formed. Two ounces of solution of soda, mixed with each gallon of juice, communicate a bouquet to the wine and I think improves it.

CHAPLAIN HILL, N. C., July 6, 1867.

Thomas Francis Meagher, Secretary and Acting Governor of Montana Territory, fell from the deck of the steamship Thompson, at Fort Benton, on the evening of the 1st instant, and was drowned. He had been absent on public business, and had succeeded in procuring arms for the troops engaged in the defense of the Territory and transacting other military business demanded by the present exigency. Of the latest accounts his remains had not been found, the darkness of the night and the rapidity of the current preventing any rescue. In 1865 he was appointed Secretary of the Territory of Montana, and for some time has been its acting Governor.

in 1,000 lbs. (125 gallons), 240 lbs. sugar, 6 lbs. acid and 754 lbs. water. These ingredients show how much the juice actually contains, and the difference is what should be added. By the use of these ingredients as good wine can always be made, as the fruit will allow, and will always be alike, as it is now, no two samples are alike.

The berries should not be gathered until perfectly ripe, as the riper they are the greater the quantity of sugar, and less the amount of acid. It is not possible to solve the berries over ripe, provided they are not rotten. They should be gathered on a clear, bright day, and carefully picked over, all imperfect or unripe ones, and all leaves or stems thrown out, as they communicate a harsh unpleasant taste to the wine and destroys the aroma. As soon as the berries have been picked over they should be put into a tub and crushed with a wooden pestle until thoroughly broken to pieces. Let them stand in this condition 12 hours, in a cool place, so as to allow the juices time to digest, and then strain the pulp adhering to the seed, and which pressing will not remove. At the end of 12 hours the juice should be pressed from the seed and pulp. This may be done in any way most convenient, but the less it is exposed to the air the better, as the juice easily becomes acid.

As the juice of berries gathered at the same time must be mixed together, for otherwise the fermentation will be unequal. The quantity of sugar and water to be added must now be determined and added before fermentation begins, so that nearly the whole of the sugar may be consumed, instead of being fermented and not remain to act as a ferment at some future time. The fermentation may be conducted in two ways. The juice may be put into any open mouth vessel and covered with a cloth to keep out dust, &c.; in a few hours it will begin to ferment, and it will remain perfectly quiet until fermentation has ceased. The crust should not be broken or removed as it is intended by nature as a protection to the young wine to prevent its turning sour and, also, to prevent the escape of the alcohol as it is formed. The common opinion that it should be skimmed off to prevent its becoming mixed with the wine is wrong, as it will mix with the wine, but soon after fermentation ceases, will sink to the bottom. The other way, and the one I think best, is to put the juice, directly it is pressed, into a barrel, and to keep the air from the barrel, a full and putting a safety tube into the bung-hole, this is simply a curved tube made of tin or lead, with one arm longer than the other. The longest arm is fastened airtight into the bung-hole of the barrel, the other arm is put into a pitcher of water. This excludes the air from the barrel, which can be now left to itself to ferment without danger of becoming acid or sour, and needs no attention except to see that the water in the pitcher does not evaporate.

The fermentation may be known to have ceased when the gas ceases to pass out through the tube or bubble up in the water in the pitcher. It may be allowed to remain in this condition until December, or it may be treated in the same manner as the wine fermented in the first manner. The juice should be bottled in different sized vessels, for when altogether in one vessel the fermentation is more regular and the wine less apt to sour. When fermented in small quantities the least variations of the weather will affect it. When the fermentation has commenced it should proceed moderately, with great regularity. After the fermentation has ceased, the wine is to be drawn off into a clean barrel, filling the barrel full and the bung driven in tight, the bung should be long enough for the lower end to remain in the wine, to prevent it from drying and shrinking, and thus allowing the air to get in the barrel, for by keeping the air from the wine it will keep sweet. Great care should be taken when fermented in open vessels, to exclude the air from it as soon as fermentation ceases, for if allowed to remain in contact with the air it will surely become vinegar. On a clear day in December, it should be drawn off in a clean barrel; wine should never be handled on a damp day, as the dampness affects it injuriously. It should remain perfectly quiet until Spring opens, when it should be drawn off again, and if weeks it may be bottled. The barrel should always be filled to the bung so as not to allow any vacant space for the air to occupy.

The object in drawing off the wine so often is to prevent it from fermenting again, as the sediment in the barrel acts as great and will start an action in the wine, and the sugar has been converted into Alcohol, that it is will convert the Alcohol into vinegar if allowed to remain.

If fermentation sets in, it can be checked at once by adding 1 oz. sulphate lime to a gallon of wine, or by burning a strip of camphor in the water in the pitcher. The wine is then to be drawn off into a clean barrel, and allowed to cool. A few gallons of wine should be drawn from the barrel so as to have a vacant space for the sulphur match to burn in. This should be lighted at one end, inserted at the bung-hole, and the bung put in tight to fasten the other end of the match and prevent its dropping into the wine, and also to prevent the escape of the gas; as it has burnt out, shake the barrel well, so as to mix the gas and wine, return the wine taken out and bung up tightly; after it has settled, draw off into a clean barrel.

The greatest possible cleanliness is absolutely necessary, as very little will change the fermentation from a vinous to an acetic one. The temperature of the room in which the fermentation takes place should be about 65 degrees Fahrenheit, for if less the fermentation proceeds imperfectly. If higher, alcohol escapes and weakens the wine. By a clean barrel is meant one that is free from all small and communicable tastes to water after standing in it some time. It should be rinsed in lime water and then in clear water before being used.

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Letter of General Sickles on Registration.

CHARLESTON, S. C., July 5, 1867.

MY DEAR SIR:—I have decided not to begin registration in this district until Congress determines who shall be registered. I trust, therefore, that it will be the pleasure of Congress to extend the time for the completion of my registration until—say, October or November. If I proceed now, and disregard the wishes of the President, my action would be regarded as insubordination; if I follow his intimations, many would probably be registered not eligible according to the true interpretation of the acts of Congress.

If it is meant that all who have held any office—Federal, State, or municipal—having taken an oath of office to support the Constitution of the United States, and afterwards engaged in rebellion, or given aid and comfort, etc., are disfranchised, this should be expressly declared; otherwise, if left to construction, it may be held that no other offices are included than those classes enumerated in Article VI. of the Constitution, and that even as to these, a full pardon removes the disability.

If it is meant to exclude lawyers they should be expressly mentioned, or else described by some classification; as for example, after the word "office," add "any licensed calling, or employment, or profession." Otherwise, if the disability of lawyers be left to construction, it may be held that a lawyer is not a public officer, although a functionary of a court or other judicial body.

The truth is, we have now in operation two different systems of reconstruction, originated by Congress, and endorsed upon the President's plan of reconstruction. The first Congressional plan is expressed in the Howard constitutional amendment, leaving suffrage to be regulated by the several States, and imposing upon certain classes of persons a general disability to office, as a punishment for rebellion and as a safeguard for the future. That plan having been refused by the rebel States, Congress passed the reconstruction acts, which form a second scheme of reconstruction, entirely distinct in principle and plan from the former. The second plan, Congress assumes control of the question of suffrage, which is extended to all who can take a prescribed oath, and also enforces the disfranchisement of office, which would have been the penal and conservative feature of the first plan. Now, it seems to me that there is a true conservative guarantee against reaction in the addition made to the loyal vote by the enfranchisement of the colored people. That being done, the occasion for the disfranchisement clause ceases. Hence, the true solution, I believe, is to declare, with universal suffrage, a general amnesty, subject to the exceptions, a more liberal amnesty is, in my judgment, essential to the success of the Congressional plan of reconstruction. It will enlarge the range of popular choice for the important judicial, executive, and legislative departments of the State government, and otherwise increase the number to classes very few of whom are fit to hold office. The people can surely be entrusted to judge and select from those who took part in the rebellion the men at once qualified and sincere in their adhesion to the new order of things, and who, being eligible to office, will have motive to identify themselves with reconstruction, and to support the views of the majority. Now, more than ever, men of ability and experience in public business are needed for the State governments in the South; and it is truly unfortunate that at such a moment, the only men who know anything of public affairs, and especially those who could fill judicial stations, are disfranchised. This exposes the experiment of general suffrage to needless hazards. If the experiment fails, it is most likely that all such men will be the objects of the people to put in office those who could and would assure success. It would have been advantageous perhaps to have removed many disfavored persons, especially judges, sheriffs, and magistrates, in the execution of the sixth section of the act of 21 March, if such persons had been removed from those who are eligible to office; and I would regard the possession now of a wider field of choice for civil officers as one of the most effective instrumentalities in the execution of the military authority conferred upon the Reconstruction Act. I feel that myself prevented, as will the people by and by, from securing for the public service men of aptitude and character, whose reputation is as certain as the devotion of the most consistent loyalist. In truth, the zeal of some of the converts outruns the discretion of many of the faithful. With reference to other practical suggestions, it might be useful if Congress, by one of its committees, interrogated the commanding officers of the several districts upon the operation of the reconstruction acts, and the further legislation required.

Very respectfully,
D. E. SICKLES,
Hon. LYMAN TRUMBULL, Chairman Judiciary Committee, U. S. Senate.

Particulars of Maximilian's Case.—Proceedings of the Court-Martial.—The Trial and Execution.—Demander of the Emperor and his Followers.—Madame Juarez's Reception in New Orleans and Departure.

NEW ORLEANS, July 10.—We have the *Drowsy*, a schooner of the 4th inst., which yesterday, at six o'clock, arrived at the court-martial that tried Maximilian and his generals. The court was composed of a lieutenant colonel, president, six captains, and a Judge Advocate. The prisoners were tried by the court, each plea containing a denial of the justice of the court, and protesting against the refusal of the right of appeal.

Maximilian was confined to his bed when his case was called. His trial being last he was ably defended by Senor Enalio Ortega who refused the charges of usurper and cruelty, and said the law of October 3d was in force when Maximilian was proclaimed Emperor. The court was composed of a lieutenant colonel, president, six captains, and a Judge Advocate. The prisoners were tried by the court, each plea containing a denial of the justice of the court, and protesting against the refusal of the right of appeal.

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He earnestly asked members of the court in the name of civilization and the history which will judge of the terrible deeds done by the Emperor, because of the second independence of Mexico, to save the good name of the country. Coming generations will applaud the crowning of the greatest victory by the greatest pardon.

Among the accusations against Maximilian was one for attempting to prolong the war by the delay of the law of October 3d, creating a regency in case of his death in the approaching battles.

Jesús Maria Vasquez, one of Maximilian's counsel, closed the argument as follows: "If you condemn the Archduke to death I am not uneasy about a coalition in Europe, or the threatened overthrow of the United States may assume the form of a republic. I have confidence in the liberal armies that have routed the French from this soil, but I fear the universal reproach that will fall upon our country as an anathema, more than even the sentence of death, because of the nullity of the proceedings of this court." The court commenced at 8 A. M. on the 13th, went into secret session on the evening of the 14th, and dissolved at 10 P. M. the same night.

San Luis Potosi, papers of June 19th publish telegrams from Maximilian to the Mexican President, which were received on the 27th of May, asking a personal interview with Juarez, and desiring that

General Diaz should permit the Baron de Manges, with two lawyers, to leave the City of Mexico, to undertake the Emperor's defence, and also with them the representatives of Austria, Prussia, Belgium, or, in default of them, those of England and Italy, with whom Maximilian alleged it was necessary that he should arrange some family and international affairs which should have been arranged two months since. These latter requests were accorded by Juarez in a letter dated San Luis, May 27th, conditionally; that is, provided that the Baron and others could be on hand in time for the trial, which was not delayed on that account. In regard to the petition of Maximilian for a personal interview, Juarez replied that it could not be granted, on account of the distance from San Luis to Queretaro.

An extra of the New Orleans Times, published on Tuesday evening, contains a letter from San Luis Potosi, giving additional details concerning Maximilian's execution, in company with Miramon and Mejia, as follows:

At six o'clock on the morning of June 19 the troops of Escobedo formed a short distance from the city for the execution of Maximilian and his generals, the people of Queretaro flocking by thousands to see the closing scenes in the life of their loved ones. As the clock strikes seven the bell toll and announce that the prisoners have left their prisons for the last time, and are on their way to their execution. After a few moments they appear, drawn in carriages and a large crowd around them, the Emperor, Miramon, next, and Juarez last. As they near the place of execution convulsive sobs break from the crowd. The carriages stop and the prisoners get out. Among the convulsions you can hardly see a dry eye. Tokens of dissatisfaction are manifest.

Maximilian, on alighting, is saluted by the people. In an easy and graceful manner, and with an elastic step, he marched to the fatal spot. The prisoners were dressed in a plain manner. They were not bound nor blindfolded. In taking his position, the Emperor spoke in a clear and firm manner, and with nothing of bravado. He seemed to feel his situation, and said